

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend /replace claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice and add new claims 11-14.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for developing ~~creating and using~~ a software application for manipulating data associated with an asset ~~a petroleum company~~, comprising:

at least one processing unit;

- a. at least one memory store operatively connected to the processing unit;
- b. extensible N-tier software resident in and executable within the at least one processing unit;
- c. an inventory of software components resident in the memory store ~~for use by the N-tier software, at least one software component being selectively representative of a requirement of an asset of the petroleum company wherein a plurality of tiers are generated from the inventory of software components using the N-tier software, each tier being associated with at least one other tier, and each tier comprising a plurality of software components and performing a predetermined function relating to an asset, each software component comprising a software object;~~
- d. an input device, operatively in communication with the processing unit; and
- e. an output device, operatively in communication with the processing unit; and
- f. ~~at least one tier created by the extensible N-tier software, the tier comprising at least one software component, the tier further representing at least one asset of the petroleum company and performing a well-defined business function.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ at least one software component ~~comprises~~ represents one of an oil field component components, an oil well component components, and an oil well log component components capable of selectively representing predetermined oil field, well, and related requirements.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the output device ~~display~~ is responsive to inputs from the input device, the N-tier software, and an application applications generated using the N-tier software, or a combination thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein additional software components are developed ~~may be created or modified manually by user input, or automatically by an application applications~~ generated using the N-tier software in response to at least one internal trigger triggers, or automatically by an application applications generated using the N-tier software in response to at least one external trigger triggers, or a combination thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for developing creation of a software application to manipulate data associated with a selected set of assets, ~~of a petroleum company, for a system comprising at least one processing unit, at least one memory store operatively connected to the processing unit, N-tier software executable within the at least one processing unit, software architecture specifications resident in the memory store for use by the N-tier software, an input device, operatively in communication with the processing unit, an output device, a communications pathway operatively connected to the processing unit, an initial set of software components where each software component selectively represents at least one asset of the set of assets, at least one tier where the tier comprises at last least one software component and represents at least one asset of the set of assets and performs a well-defined business function, the method comprising:~~

- a. selecting a first software component from an inventory of software components to perform a first function relating to selectively represent requirements for each of a selected set of assets;
- b. obtaining selecting a second software component from outside the inventory of software components to perform a second function for each requirements not satisfied by a software component from the inventory;
- c. defining relationships for each selected software component and obtained software component to at least one other software component, the relationships including association of each selected software component with a tier
defining a plurality of tiers generated from at least the inventory of software components, each tier being associated with at least one other tier, each tier comprising a plurality of the software components and performing a predetermined function, each software component comprising a software object, the first software component being assigned to a first tier and the second software component being assigned to either the first tier or a second tier;
- d. defining the sequencing of the first and second each of the software components in order to manipulate data associated with the selected set of assets into an invocable application;
- e. whereby requirements of the software application to manipulate the set of assets are satisfied.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further comprising:

- a. selecting a well component from ~~an~~ the inventory of software components to selectively represent requirements for a predetermined number of wells;
- b. selecting a log component from ~~an~~ the inventory of software components to selectively represent requirements for a predetermined number of log components;
- c. selecting a field component from ~~an~~ the inventory of software components to selectively represent requirements for a predetermined number of fields; and

- d. associating the well component with the log component and the field component ~~one or more well components with one or more field components and one or more log components.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further comprising providing each software component with a change menu wherein the change menu is ~~may be~~ manually accessed, programmatically accessed, or a combination thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further comprising ~~developing~~ ~~creating~~ one or more ~~processing~~ software components to process data wherein the processing software components are created under programmatic control and ~~process the data~~ ~~perform the required processing on those data~~ upon receipt of a predefined amount of data.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 5 ~~for a plurality of processing units~~ wherein the software components are distributed among the plurality of processing units.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (new): An article of manufacture, comprising:

 a computer storage medium having a computer program encoded therein for developing a software application to manipulate data associated with a selected set of assets, the computer storage medium including:

 code for selecting a first software component from an inventory of software components to perform a first function relating to the set of assets;

 code for selecting a second software component from outside the inventory to perform a second function;

 code for defining a plurality of tiers from the inventory of software components, each tier being associated with at least one other tier, each tier comprising a plurality of the software components and performing a predetermined function, each software component comprising a software object, the first software component being assigned to a tier and the second software component being assigned to a tier; and

 code for defining the sequencing of the first and second software components in order to manipulate data associated with the set of assets.

Claim 12 (new): The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein the set of assets comprises a set of physical assets.

Claim 13 (new): The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein the physical assets comprise at least one of an oil well and an oil field.

Claim 14 (new): The system of claim 1, wherein the asset comprises an asset of a petroleum company.